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## CITYVIEW

City of Hamilton Planning and Development Department

1996

## INFRASTRUCTURE

## WHAT IS INFRASTRUCTURE?

Not everybody knows the meaning of the term but we see "infrastructure" every day. It is one large word which describes our transportation system, storm and sanitary sewers, transfer stations, hydro-electric power lines and oil and natural gas pipelines. These systems are the backbone of the City. Most of the infrastructure services are provided by the Region of Hamilton-Wentworth and not the City of Hamilton.

The transportation network is described in two separate brochures - *Travel by Roads and Transit and Other Forms of Travel*.

## Transmission Facilities

Transmission facilities include lines for our telephone, hydro, gas, cable TV and other things. There are a number of transmission corridors throughout the City; some we can see and others we can't. In some cases, the hydro corridors are used by people to walk their dog, jog, maybe even throw a ball

*Should the City continue to work with the utility companies to purchase or lease lands that are surplus to the utility companies needs?*

## Water Distribution

The Region is responsible for getting drinkable water to your property line. All new development is required to be hooked up to the municipal water system.

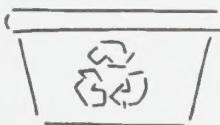
## Storm and Sanitary Sewers

The Region of Hamilton-Wentworth is responsible for both the sanitary and storm sewers within the City of Hamilton.

The majority of these sewers are separated: one for storm water, which directly discharges into the Bay or Lake Ontario and the other collects wastewater which flows into sewage treatment plants.

## Solid Waste Disposal

The collection of solid waste is the Region's responsibility: our regular garbage either goes to landfill sites or is incinerated and hazardous materials, old trees/shrubs, etc. are accepted at one of three transfer stations and recycled materials are collected through the blue box system.



The message to everybody is the three "R's" - reduce, reuse, recycle.

The goal is to minimize the amount of garbage we produce which in turn has environmental benefits and saves money.

*Should the City continue to promote its efforts at recycling (i.e. putting blue boxes in all recreational/community facilities, etc.)?*



HAMILTON'S PLAN FOR TOMORROW



## Storm Water Management

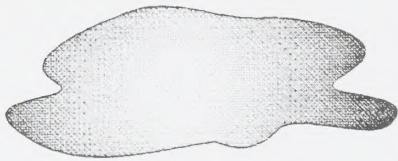
Where does our rainwater go?

Traditionally, drainage of rainwater from your property has, in the past, been designed to flow quickly into the storm sewer beneath the street then into the Harbour or Lake.

In recent years, through the efforts of environmental groups and provincial agencies, the issue of storm water management has come to the forefront.

*How does storm water runoff from development and redevelopment projects, impact the surrounding environment?*

When development and redevelopment occurs, it increases storm water runoff. If it is allowed to flow unchecked through our natural streams into the Harbour and Lake Ontario, these increased flows erode stream banks and deposit sediments and pollutants (e.g. pesticides, fertilizers) into the water. The key goal is to minimize storm water runoff from sites; therefore, new strategies to control the flow of rainwater are needed.



### Adopt-a-Puddle

At present, most people, after a rain storm have wet grass but their grass is not soggy. "Adopt-a-Puddle" is a new technique which keeps the rainwater on your property for a longer period of time while it is absorbed slowly into the ground. This is done by grading the backyards with flatter slopes. This helps to prevent the rush of water to the storm sewers.



### Blue Barrel

Another technique used by some municipalities is called the "Blue Barrel". This is similar to the old fashioned rain barrel, where water from the roof is collected in the barrel and is used to water gardens and lawns between rainfalls.

### Ponds

In bigger developments, ponds are built. They have two purposes:

- ❖ to slow down storm water runoff;
- ❖ to absorb pollutants such as lawn fertilizers.



Through these three systems, the water flows to the Harbour in a controlled manner and the water that reaches the Harbour is cleaner.

*Would you be willing to "Adopt-a-Puddle" if this system reduces the impacts of storm water runoff on our environment?*

For further information on this brochure, please contact Joanne Hickey-Evans at (905) 546-4229

## CITYVIEW

CityView Hamilton's Plan for Tomorrow is your opportunity to present your ideas and thoughts on the future of Hamilton.

Your ideas will ultimately form the basis of a new Official Plan for the City of Hamilton.

Staff of Hamilton's Planning and Development Department are available to answer your questions on any facet of CityView.

### Ways to Contact Us...

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